Dr. Katherine (Kay) Gross is a University Distinguished Professor and Director of the WK Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on the causes and consequences of species diversity in plant communities. She has explored these questions in a variety of grassland communities including successional old-fields, pastures, cropping systems, native and restored prairies and savannahs in southwestern Michigan. As a co-PI on the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) in agricultural ecology at KBS she has led research on how management and diversity of cropping systems affects plant and soil communities and ecosystem processes. More recently she has been involved in research focusing funded by DOE on the ecology and sustainability of bioenergy cropping systems through the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center (GLBRC) at MSU. As part of the LTER and GLBRC she has coordinated education and outreach programs focusing on K-12 teachers and preparing the next generation of scientist. She is a past President of the Ecological Society of America and has served on several national research boards and panels, including the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) and SESYNC, the new NSF-funded National Social Environmental Center. She has also served on the Executive Committee of the LTER Network, review panels for NSF programs in Ecology and Bio-Informatics. She is currently an Editor in Chief for the journal, *Oecologia*, an international ecological research journal and Chair of the Advisory Board for the Biological Sciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Degrees:

BS Biology with Honors, Iowa State University (1975)
PhD, Zoology, Michigan State University (1980)

Positions:

Ass't/Assoicate Professor, Dept of Botany, Ohio State University (1980-1987)
Assoc/Full Professor, Dept of Plant Biology, Michigan State University (1987-)
Director, WK Kellogg Biological Station (2005-)
University Distinguished Professor (2005 -)